

Official rules for the 6th Annual **QIAGEN / APHL Public Health Laboratory Appreciation Month Microbe Masterpieces and Chemistry Creations Art Contest**

This contest is sponsored by QIAGEN, LLC 19300 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD, 20874, USA.

The QIAGEN / APHL Public Health Laboratory Appreciation Month Microbe Masterpieces and Chemistry Creations Art Contest consists of three phases.

Entry Individuals may submit a piece of artwork by midnight (UTC) on September 30, 2026, through an email submission to PHLinfo@qiagen.com for consideration during the QIAGEN / APHL Public Health Laboratory Appreciation Month event.

Only participants who submit artwork are eligible for consideration. Multiple entries are allowed; however, only one gift (QIAGEN-branded sunglasses [*while supplies last*], valued under \$7.00 USD) will be shipped per person. By submitting the artwork, you are providing your name and email address and consent to the use of such information as described in these rules. By participating in the contest, the artwork will become the property of QIAGEN and The Association of Public Health Laboratories, Inc. (APHL), and participants consent for the organizations to use their name and artwork, free of charge, for marketing purposes, particularly for use on each organization's social media platforms and websites. The artwork will also be used in a collage to be presented to the grand prize winner and showcased at APHL's facility.

Eligibility Open to individuals who are US residents and at least 18 years old by June 25, 2026. Anyone who works for a local, state, federal or territorial public health laboratory is eligible to enter, including employees of environmental, agricultural, veterinary and food safety laboratories serving the public's health. All participants in the Public Health Laboratory Fellowship and Internship Programs: an APHL-CDC Initiative are also eligible to enter.

Employees and immediate family members of QIAGEN cannot participate in the artwork contest. Participants do not have to provide any form of consideration to participate in the artwork contest. Individuals or entities involved in the provision of healthcare services and/or items to patients, which purchase, lease, recommend, use, arrange for the purchase or lease of, or prescribe medical technologies, or who are classified as healthcare professionals or healthcare organizations under any applicable laws or industry codes of ethics, may not participate in this promotion. Participants warrant that they do not fall into any of the categories described in the preceding sentence and are not prohibited by employment, contract, law, regulation, or any applicable professional code of conduct from accepting a gift from QIAGEN. By submitting artwork, the participant certifies that they have obtained any permissions required from their employer to submit such a registration and is not violating any policies of his or her employer in so doing.

Applicants who have submitted their artwork by midnight (UTC) on September 30, 2026, will be automatically eligible for Phase 1 and considered for selection as finalists for Phase 2 and Phase 3, as determined by the judging process.

Phase 1 – General Submission All emailed entries will receive a gift and must provide any relevant information and shipping address at time of submission. Any entries not including requested information, such as shipping address, will be considered an indication that participant is opting out of this prize. No communication will be sent as further clarification. No cash alternative to the prize will be awarded and the prize is not transferable. All taxes, including, without limitation, federal, state, and local taxes on or in connection with the prize are the sole responsibility of the finalist. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute any prize of equal or greater value at its sole discretion.

Phase 2 – Category Winners Entries will be selected as winners for different categories and will receive either a QIAGEN Gut Check board game, T-shirt, or similar item (valued under \$20.00 USD), subject to availability. The categories are: Most Unique, Best Use of Recycled Materials, and Best Scientific Representation. All entries will be reviewed by a panel of volunteer judges and/or APHL staff and selected as the top choice per category. The winner will be notified no later than October 15, 2026, by e-mail or other means at QIAGEN's sole discretion, and the prize will ship to the address provided by the winner. All taxes, including, without limitation, federal, state, and local taxes on or in connection with the prize are the sole responsibility of the finalist. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute any prize of equal or greater value at its sole discretion. No cash alternative to the prize will be awarded and the prize is not transferable. In the event a finalist cannot receive their prize for any reason, the prize shall be awarded to an alternate finalist.

Phase 3 – Grand Prize Winner The grand prize winner will receive a QIAGEN-sponsored lunch for the winner's direct lab department or section, QIAGEN branded giveaways and a collage of all submitted artwork. All entries will be reviewed by a panel of volunteer judges and/or APHL staff and one will be selected as the grand prize winner. The winner will be announced no later than October 15, 2026. The timeline for awarding the grand prize will be determined by QIAGEN and coordinated based on the winner's availability convenience.

The winner will be notified by e-mail or other means at QIAGEN's sole discretion. Lunch will be provided for the winner's direct lab department or section, as determined by QIAGEN. Prizes will be brought to the winner at the time of the lunch by QIAGEN. All taxes, including, without limitation, federal, state, and local taxes on or in connection with the prize are the sole responsibility of the winner. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute any prize of equal or greater value at its sole discretion. No cash alternative to the prize will be awarded and the prize is not transferable. In the event a winner cannot receive their institution's prize for any reason, the prize shall be awarded to an alternate winner.

Data processing. QIAGEN is committed to protecting your privacy. When we process personal data, we observe the rules laid down in the applicable data protection laws, including but not limited to General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and California Consumer Privacy Act. If personal data is transferred outside the EU/EEA, we will ensure that appropriate contractual measures (e.g., using standard contractual clauses of the EU Commission) are applied to the transfer, the transfer is lawful, and that the processing and confidentiality are in compliance with the applicable laws.

Personal data processed includes: first name, last name, email, phone, company, country, job position, shirt size and shipping address. The data is collected from the

information obtained from the data subject when participating in a competition. There are no other sources of information. For further information, please refer to QIAGEN's [Privacy Policy](#).

No Endorsement by Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and X/Twitter. The artwork contest is not linked to Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter and is not sponsored, supported or organized by any of the social media platforms mentioned above. Submitted entries, unless opted out in an entry email, will be henceforth owned by QIAGEN and APHL with agreement to share on social media to the organizations' discretion. Any questions, comments, or complaints about the artwork contest should be addressed to QIAGEN or APHL directly.

Participants may opt out of sharing their artwork on social media. Simply specify in the email submission "I wish to opt out and do not want to share or showcase my art". Individuals that opt out will be eligible for prizes, but artwork will not be shared on social media nor included in the final art mural.

General. This artwork contest is void where prohibited by law. QIAGEN reserves the right to cancel, suspend and/or modify the artwork contest at its sole discretion. By participating in the artwork contest, participants agree to release and hold harmless QIAGEN and its affiliates from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the artwork contest, including any errors in the administration of the promotion, printing errors and technical errors, and the participant agrees to release and hold harmless QIAGEN and its affiliates as well from receipt or use of any award, and further consent to the disclosure of their respective names in connection with QIAGEN's promotion of the artwork contest.

Forfeiture. Return of any prize notification as undeliverable will result in forfeiture of the prize. Legal recourse is excluded. QIAGEN, its officers, directors, affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies, agents and representatives and their respective employees are not responsible and shall not be liable for: (a) electronic, hardware or software program, network, internet or computer malfunctions, failures or difficulties of any kind, including without limitation server malfunctions or by any error (human or otherwise) which may occur in the processing of entries; or (b) any condition caused by events beyond the control of QIAGEN that may cause the artwork contest to be disrupted or corrupted. Any attempt by a participant to deliberately damage any website or undermine the legitimate operation of the artwork contest may be a violation of criminal and civil laws. Should such an attempt be made, QIAGEN reserves the right to seek damages from such a person to the extent permitted by law.

Jurisdiction. These Official Rules are governed by and must be construed in accordance with the laws of Maryland. Entrants agree that all disputes arising from or in connection with this contest must be heard in the competent courts of Maryland.